

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 19 May 2000

8395/00 (Presse 155)

P 65/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Guinea-Bissau**

The European Union expresses its concern at the ongoing climate of tension and insecurity in Guinea-Bissau and at reports of indiscipline in some sectors of the Armed Forces.

The European Union urges all in Guinea Bissau, in particular the military, to continue to take forward the positive developments of last year, with the holding of fair, free and democratic elections which led to a democratic transition of power.

The European Union stresses the need for a full return to civil rule, effective functioning of democratic institutions and a peaceful environment as prerequisites for the continuation of foreign investments, and the financial and economic aid that the country urgently needs.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int